

Notes June 25, 1987:

Conversation with REDACTED , Jemez Springs. Mike has totally finessed his way through seven years of therapy. The report will not go to the psychologist here. He lied to the psychologist. Been involved with minors--presently with a 12-year-old--surrogate father but also sex partner. Pre-sexual--very serious

Furious at the psychologist

Last one to get into Foundation House Program

Afraid he might try suicide and watched him. Not afraid of that now.

Discuss with REDACTED his coming back to L.A. before program starts.

"Mike has an insatiable need for closure."

Discussed aiding victims and the problem that might cause.

Mike said "People here would say 'let it go'"

Reported to Archbishop on same date by phone. REDACTED said Mike Wempe was terrified of Archbishop and of me. REDACTED calmed fears of this.

MEMORANDUM

November 22, 1987

To: Archbishop Mahony

From: Msgr. Thomas Curry

Re: Father Michael Wempe

I met with Mike, REDACTED, the new Director of Foundation House, Dr. REDACTED, Mike's therapist, and REDACTED who is in charge of placement. Dr. REDACTED reported that, while Mike has had a great deal of difficulty with the Program, he has made very significant progress in the last three weeks. My experience of the meeting together with the attached indicate this is true.

We spend a considerable amount of time discussing the confidentiality of the reports on Mike. At the beginning I stated I felt bound to share the attached with you despite his wish to have it destroyed immediately. He did not ask if I had seen the previous reports, and I did not indicate that I had. Neither did he ask if they had been destroyed. He is afraid the records will be sought by the courts at some time and that they could convict him. I stressed that, from a personnel point of view, the records constituted a protection and that, for future consideration of his case, the absence of records showing his response to therapy would be a hindrance.

We discussed the possibility of legal problems in the future. He is very aware that what he did comes within the scope of the criminal law in California. Although I do not know the exact details, he told me that there was some sexual touching, although most of his activity would better be described as "cuddling." He also mentioned that, with the exception of one boy, all the others involved are now over twenty-one. I encouraged him to contact a criminal lawyer to get a more exact evaluation of his legal status. Indeed, it is surprising the counselor he attended in California did not report him, and we agreed it would be better if Mike did not return to him.

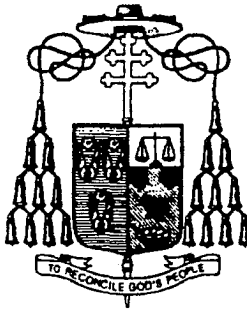
Both Mike and Dr. REDACTED agreed on the absolute necessity of his continuing in counseling. This presents us with a problem, but Mike is so aware of this need that he would be willing to go to a diocese in another state--something he would not have been willing to consider earlier in the Program.

We discussed the possibility of his consulting a lawyer who would refer him to therapy, thus putting the reports under the protection of privilege or of finding a lawyer who is also a psychiatrist. I will investigate both possibilities.

With regard to future placement, Mike presents a greater challenge than REDACTED. Dr. REDACTED discouraged campus ministry for the reason that minors

or students over eighteen but who are emotionally unformed attend college. Mike agreed with this assessment. On hospital ministry, the staff disagreed. Dr. REDACTED felt this would be suitable in that it involves a transient population, and Mike tends to get into trouble with long-term relationships. REDACTED disagreed in that hospital ministry can involve minors and can provide for a good deal of physical touching with people in all stages of consciousness. I tend to agree with Dr. REDACTED in this case but asked them to continue to discuss this matter. We agreed that Adult Education and Engaged Encounter would be suitable activities. In general, I will look for areas of ministry where we are not able to provide a priest because of the shortage of clergy.

In addition to the parishes listed, Mike mentioned Corpus Christi, Pacific Palisades as he gets on very well with REDACTED. He is most attached to his dog, and I warned him this might limit his options. I will be in continued contact as he prepares to return.



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OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

August 14, 1987

Reverend Michael E. Wempe  
Foundation House  
Jemez Springs, NM 87025

Dear Mike:

I was so very pleased to receive your recent letter and I am glad to know that you are finding the program at Foundation House to be so helpful and useful to you in your life as a priest.

You will recall that when I recommended that you go to Jemez Springs and participate in the program I said that you would find in the long run that it would be an extremely favorable and constructive experience for you. All of the priests whom I know and who have participated in the program relate that same experience, and when you conclude the program there you will find your own future ministry so much more challenging and fruitful.

Each of you there at Jemez Springs is very much in my prayers and I call you to mind each day during my celebration of the Eucharist.

Please continue to have your spirit of openness there at Foundation House and to allow the spirit to work through the various professionals as well as your brother priests.

Assuring you again of my prayers and of my support for you in this experience, and with every best wish, I am

Fraternally yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Roger Mahony  
Archbishop of Los Angeles

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